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News Release

School Counselor Corps Grant Program Funding Now Available

School districts may now apply for \$4.8 million available to increase effective school-based counseling services within secondary schools.

The School Counselor Corps Grant funds are being made available through the passage of House Bill 1370 and the support of Gov. Bill Ritter's P-20 Council.

During the 2008-2009 school year, CDE will conduct two grant funding competitions for School Counselor Corps Grant funding. The first round of applications will be due July 18; second round applications will be due on Oct. 1. Approximately two-thirds of the available funding will be distributed during the first funding competition.

School districts, BOCES (Boards of Cooperative Educational Services), charter schools, and the Charter School Institute are all welcome to apply on behalf of one or more secondary schools.

Applications must seek to increase the number of school counselors for secondary students (grades seven through 12) and the level of school counseling services provided, with an emphasis on increasing the graduation rate and preparing students for postsecondary success.

"School counselors play a critical role in preparing students for success in life, work or the next level of schooling," said Jeanette Cornier, assistant commissioner of standards and achievement support. "This new initiative will provide a way for school districts to strengthen

counseling services so counselors can play an even more influential role in raising the awareness of students of their options beyond high school.”

To access the Request for Proposal (RFP), please visit the following link:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdecomp/SchoolCounselor.htm>

For more information about the School Counselor Corps grant program, please contact Kim Burnham, Competitive Grants & Awards office, 303-866-6916 or burnham_k@cde.state.co.us.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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